

fighting, dying, and living for. We know because from every corner of the earth, the down trodden, the disenfranchised, and the oppressed come to seek out this dream. We know America is the beacon of hope and change, we can see it in the diversity of our citizenry.

On September 11, 2001, a generation blanketed by the quilt of peace and tranquility was awakened. This quilt of peace, stitched with the blood, sweat, and tears of brave American soldiers, was torn in a manner unimaginable only two months ago. Today, a generation comforted by a freedom so deep, so common, so prevalent, and so easily taken for granted, can more easily identify the price for which it was paid.

This generation is reminded that the sacrifice of Americans made our way of life possible. Young Americans with dreams in their eyes and hope in their hearts, bought our freedom. The tears of families who lost loved ones were exchanged for our security. The peace that we have come to know, was purchased by men and women that so loved our country that they risked and often gave their lives—ensuring that freedom is not only a concept that we dream about, but a reality that we live.

So it is with gratitude and the utmost respect that we remember those who fought, and those who were lost for the love of our nation. We move forward more vigilant, more aware, and more determined. As we pay tribute to our nation's freedom fighters, we stand with a new pride in America. Our hopes and prayers go out to those who are deployed, even now, to carry the torch in the fight for freedom. At the dawning of a new day of uncertainty, we can look to the American values of freedom, justice, and equality to lead us to peace. We thank the countless heroes, our veterans, for giving their freedom and their lives, so that we may live free.

HONORING THE MARIAN MEDICAL CENTER WEST

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the most recent addition of the Marian Medical Center, the Marian Medical Center West.

Since its inception on May 20, 1940, the Marian Medical establishment has found the perpetual need to keep expanding in order to better serve the growing community of Santa Maria, California. In 1940, eight Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity were assigned to Santa Maria to manage and staff a hospital for the growing community of approximately 8,000 people. The new facility was named Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital, by its first administrator, Sister Noella Dieringer.

Three years later, in 1943, the 1000th baby was born at the hospital, and it became apparent that the Santa Maria community was growing fast. Sister Marilyn Ingram worked hard to secure land in the Santa Maria area, and, through the generosity of Captain and Mrs. Allan Hancock, a new facility, Marian Hospital, was able to open its doors in 1967.

Today, the Marian Medical Center has expanded to include a 130 bed acute care hos-

pital, a 95 bed extended care center, a dialysis unit, a home health agency, infusion services, a hospice program, and outpatient healthcare services. Yet as the Santa Maria community continues to grow, the medical center must expand as well. The addition of the Marian Medical Center West will help alleviate overcrowding in the hospital's main facility by providing 36 inpatient beds and expanded outpatient facilities.

The Marian Medical Center has provided services to thousands of Santa Maria residents over the last 60 years and with the addition of the new center thousands of more citizens can be served in the future. I am honored to have the opportunity of recognizing the Marian Medical Center West on its grand opening, and it pleases me that this facility continues to prosper.

HONORING JAMES KRAMER AND BRIAN COTTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, all Americans have been going through very trying times since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Despite our struggle, we have pulled together and become a stronger nation due to the resolve of our citizens. Today, I would like to recognize two patriots from Pueblo, Colorado who have made significant contributions to our nation's recovery efforts.

Pueblo County Coroner James Kramer, and Brian Cotter, a mortician, were members of the Disaster Mortuary Response Team that went to New York City to aid in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center disaster site. They were at ground zero with other forensic pathologists helping to recover and identify the individuals who we lost in the disaster.

Mr. Speaker, James Kramer and Brian Cotter committed their expertise to our country during an overwhelming time of need. Just as we have seen with the rest of the country, both James and Brian provided some stability to our nation at a time of crisis. I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize these outstanding individuals for their significant contributions to the recovery and relief effort in New York City following the World Trade Center disaster. James Kramer and Brian Cotter deserve our recognition and praise.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN TAYLORVILLE, IL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of North Elementary School in Taylorville, Illinois, and their important and heartwarming efforts to help those affected by terrorism.

On October 11th, 2001, President Bush made a request of the children of America. He challenged each of them to earn and send in one dollar. This money, sent by the kindness

of the children of the United States, will be used to reach out to the unfortunate children in far off Afghanistan.

The students of North Elementary School heard and met that challenge. I recently received a check for \$348.00, made out to America's Fund for Afghan Children—that's one dollar for each student in North Elementary. But this was only a part of the total money the students raised. In fact, through a variety of efforts in the month of October—including a Student Council penny drive and a PTA sponsored fundraising dinner—the students of North Elementary managed to gather an amazing sum: \$1,668, over five times what our President requested. The remainder of the money, it was decided, will go to the Red Cross to aid victims of the September 11th tragedy here in the United States.

The students, parents, faculty, and members of the Taylorville community should be recognized for their fine efforts. The terrorists believed they could accomplish their goals with the murder of American innocents; but the American citizens have responded with aid to the innocents of Afghanistan. Nothing else could better show how utterly Al Qaeda has failed.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said in his announcement of the Fund for Afghan Children, "One of the truest weapons that we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character of the American people." The children of North Elementary have shown that character, and they deserve our thanks. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CLARENCE ROMERO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to rise and pay tribute to Doctor Clarence Romero, associate professor of psychology, at Riverside Community College upon being named the 2001 United States Professor of the Year. My congressional district is privileged to have Dr. Romero teaching our young adults as he is one of only four awardees recognized each year for extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching.

Skillful, enthusiastic and innovative teachers change the lives of countless students for the better by encouraging curiosity and understanding and by contributing to the development of mind and spirit.

The United States Professors of the Year program, presented by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and directed by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, is the nation's most highly respected program to recognize outstanding faculty. The Professor of the Year represents the thousands of dedicated university and college instructors throughout the nation who serve their students, their community and their state with vigor and talent.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has long supported excellence in undergraduate teaching through competitively funding faculty salaries and other initiatives making our system of higher education the envy of many nations.